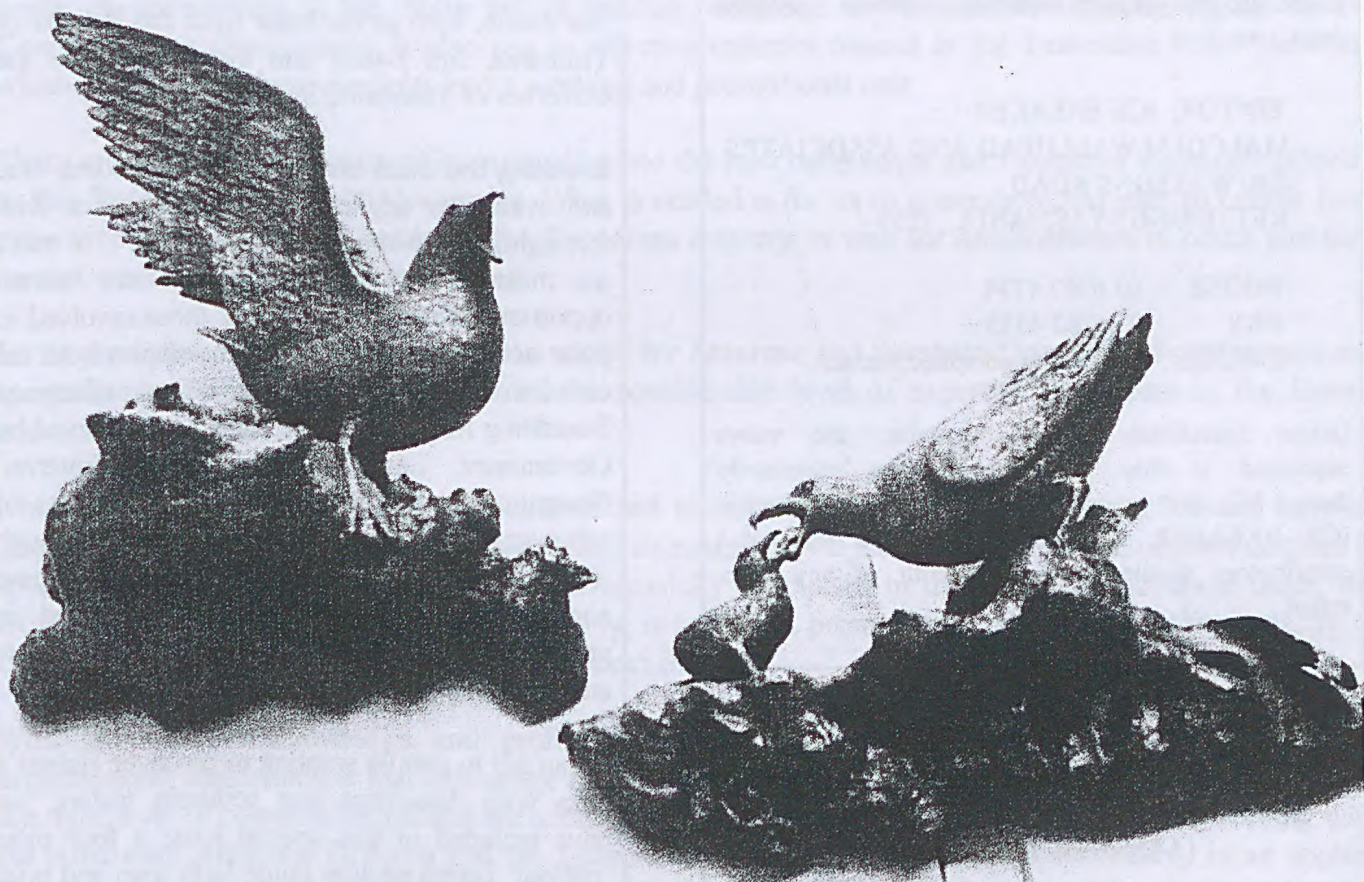


# ICE BREAKER

No.9

December 1999



**Hobart's Polar Assets  
and  
Future Goals**

**SPECIAL EDITION  
1999 - 2000**



## **ICE BREAKER**

ICE BREAKER is published independently by Malcolm Wallhead and Associates as a quarterly magazine covering Tasmanian Polar and Southern Ocean related topics.

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## **EDITORIAL**

Tasmania, and Hobart in particular, is on the verge of major rethinking in its attempt to better service both national and international polar requirements. In the past the emphasis has been on what assets there are here. The new thinking takes this two steps further by looking at how other people can benefit from these assets, and if they can benefit from our assets then how the Tasmanian community can also benefit from them.

Many of the following articles and letters support this theme, such as the letter from the Premier of Tasmania, Jim Bacon and the article from the Governor of Tasmania, Sir Guy Green.

Reaching this state of mind has taken some time and even now any actions must be taken with foresight, but without procrastination. To make the most of the current situation and current opportunities it is essential that those involved in polar activities work together to support both the commercial and the Governmental advances. Benefiting from our assets cannot be achieved by Government Law or Regulation. However, Governmental agencies can help the process of achieving success by smoothing the way through 'Red Tape' barriers and by helping to overcome some of the logistical problems involved in ventures of this nature. The rest is up to private enterprise and the people of Tasmania.

As an aid to people wanting to discover Hobart's links with Antarctica and southern waters, we have included in this special issue a four page 'pullout' centre section guide with map and brief descriptions of points of interest.

Finally, I must thank all of the advertisers who supported this special edition of ICE BREAKER magazine and made possible its distribution to the visiting ISCORD 2000 delegates in January 2000.

**MW**

**Cover photo: Malcolm Wallhead. Part of the sculpture outside the Bureau of Meteorology.**



# From The Premier's Desk

The State Government is optimistic about Tasmania's continued development as Australia's Antarctic capital and as a gateway to Antarctica in the new millennium.

This optimism is soundly based and has been developing in this State for over 200 years. It started with the landing of James Cook after his voyage to the Antarctic environs in 1775. Tasmania's importance has now grown to a point where we can, with certain knowledge, claim to be one of the biggest centres for Antarctic and Southern Ocean science in the world.

Tasmania has all the attributes necessary to develop in the future. It has the information base. This is contained within the Australian Antarctic Division, the CSIRO, the Bureau of Meteorology and the University's Antarctic CRC. It has international contacts through its links with CCAMLR (Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources), Glochant (SCAR Global Change Programme Office) and COMNAP (Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs). It has the backing of all levels of government in the State and is publicly endorsed as Australia's Antarctic capital by the Commonwealth Government. It also has an effective industry council in the Tasmanian Polar Network, which combines all these elements into a working and promotional unit.

There are a number of opportunities stretching into the new millennium that I consider extremely relevant to this State and the Antarctic industries. What is needed is for us to grasp them and plan to benefit from their adoption. What is not needed is for Tasmanian industry to wait for developments to occur and then try and work out how to respond to them.

In the years ahead, Tasmania will remain a centre for Antarctic and Southern Ocean based conferences and symposiums. This will occur because of the considerable level of expertise that exists in the State's education and research community.

I believe there are opportunities in education and training that will arise in the year 2000 and beyond. These opportunities will involve not only formal training, but will include the operation of short courses in specific subjects. Such courses have been successfully conducted in the past. To encourage these, the Government, in conjunction with the University, is funding a promotional video featuring the capacity of IASOS (Institute of Antarctic and Southern Ocean Studies).

With the level of knowledge and professionalism contained within Tasmania's resident Antarctic organisations, opportunities that encourage the development of leading edge technology should arise, with the right level of communication and encouragement. Understanding this, the Government is working with the Australian Antarctic Division and the University to initiate a postgraduate scholarship in an applied field. The information generated by this scholarship is intended to result in outcomes that have application for development by Tasmanian industry. It is important that Tasmanian industry produces products that are in demand, have wide application and are unique to the State.

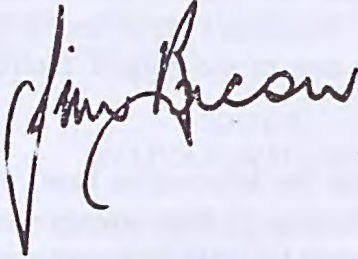
Much of the current optimism in Antarctic circles is associated with the possible introduction of an air service between Tasmania and Antarctica. The impact of that service has the capacity to be significant in two main areas. First, it has the ability to attract more of the Russian and Chinese Antarctic expenditure to Tasmania. From Tasmania's point of view the participation of the Russian and Chinese Governments is something we should be actively encouraging. Secondly, developing the infrastructure needed to operate an air service opens the way for an air-supported tourist industry.

*Continued next page*



Tasmania can look to the new millennium with optimism. Our success will depend upon our capacity to be innovative enough to develop and pursue those opportunities we identify. Government can assist, but the major effort needs to come from industry groups such as your own Tasmanian Polar Network.

I welcome the opportunity of contributing to Ice Breaker and would like to take the opportunity to wish all your readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



*Jim Bacon*  
*Premier of Tasmania*  
*Minister for State Development*

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## Peter Hodgman Writes

Congratulations to His Excellency the Governor, Sir Guy Green for the Governor's Forum on Antarctic matters.

We should not underestimate the historical significance of this unique event in having a Governor of Tasmania not only opening up Government House for a Conference, but in fact Chairing it. The bipartisan arrangement on Antarctic Affairs enables His Excellency to participate without being politically compromised. As a result we have a wonderful advocate in Sir Guy who never misses an opportunity to highlight Tasmania's Antarctic virtues to visiting Ambassadors and anyone else that can assist in Tasmania's interest.

Sir Guy Green's obvious personal interest in the Antarctic is a benefit for all of us that we should feel extremely grateful for. Tasmania really will achieve a blueprint for the future consolidating our position as Australia's Antarctic capital, as a result of the Governor's Forum.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Malcolm and Anthea Wallhead for their significant effort in regularly producing ICE BREAKER magazine. We are very fortunate to have ICE BREAKER as communication icon for the Antarctic network and this would not be possible without Malcolm and Anthea's commitment.

Merry Christmas and all the very best to you all for the New Year.

*Peter Hodgman MHA*  
*Shadow Minister for Antarctic Affairs*



## TPN CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The TPN is at an important point in its history given the big issues and challenges which now lie immediately before us. Until now our key role and function has been associated with ensuring that international visitors here on Antarctic related business both feel welcome and become aware of what Hobart has to offer them and their activities in the south.

In my view this meeting and greeting role has been superbly done, as a result of which very good and current international linkages have been established with many of the 'right' people. This complements the Hobart based networks which both COMNAP and CCAMLR foster and augers well for Hobart being both 'in the loop' and in the minds of key overseas people.

However it is clear to me that the TPN is now being expected to perform in a manner related to delivery of material outcomes to Tasmania's benefit, particularly 'off the back' of the now highly likely Hobart based Airlink. This expectation is held by our Premier and Governor as well as Federal Minister Hill.

The challenge to all members of the TPN is now to meet those expectations.

I hold reservations about our ability to do so in our current form and with our current resources given that we are a voluntary organisation albeit with excellent support through the Office of Antarctic Affairs. I believe we now need to reinvent ourselves to the extent necessary to both maintain our traditional 'meet and greet' functions as well as show the way in gaining the most possible benefit from the Airlink prospect now clearly in sight ahead of us. I believe we have to do this soon or even now, as the window of opportunity and expectation is now open but will not remain so to us for a long time as others press ahead.

In order to assist us in our deliberations I visited Christchurch in early November to study and see as much as possible of their Airlinks and the supporting infrastructure they require. I believe we have much to learn and have written a separate Article published elsewhere in this edition of Icebreaker.

In addition, I organised and led a delegation to meet Senators Robert Hill and Ian McDonald in mid October in order to note our keen interest in the Airlink and to open up communication channels for the TPN on the matter. I have also written an Article on this visit which is published in this issue of Icebreaker.

In summary I urge all TPN members to recognise the extraordinary opportunities which lie before us and our State right now and to join me in energetically understanding and developing them to Tasmania's best advantage.

*Bill Lawson.* Chairman, TPN.

### RESIGNATION

Jim Playsted, inaugural member and first elected Chairman of the Tasmanian Polar Network, has tendered his resignation from William Adams Pty Ltd after 10 years of service. He is now General Manager, Marketing For NS Komatsu Australia and will be based in Sydney. ICE BREAKER would like to thank Jim for his support and numerous contributions to the magazine and wish him every success in his new position.



# LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEW MILLENNIUM

As we approach the new millennium I thought I should pen a few words outlining the role of the Australian Antarctic Division in the year 2000 and beyond.

As part of Environment Australia we have been given the role to lead Australia's Antarctic program into the next century. The way we do business in Antarctica in the future will be different from the way we did business in the last decade. We will have more flexible logistic arrangements which may include intercontinental airlinks and an intra continental air service. The air service will be introduced, if feasible and cost effective, to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of Australia's Antarctic program. It should be an exciting time for us all if our plans come to fruition.

We have spent 1999 revising the strategic plans for science and aligning them with the Government goals:

- To maintain the Antarctic Treaty System and enhance Australia's influence within the System;
- To protect the Antarctic environment;
- To understand the role of Antarctica in the global climate system; and
- To undertake scientific work of practical, economic and national significance.

The new science strategic plan has been accepted by the Minister and we will be implementing the plan in the first years of the new millennium.

The AAD has not been sheltered from the pace of Government reform and I have been pleased with the extent to which the AAD has introduced state of the art financial accounting, management and purchasing practices. Organisations like ours, which have a large impact in regional economies need to be aware of the way they interact with suppliers and service providers and I am happy that the AAD is building transparent and ethical relationships with local industry and commerce, particularly through the TPN.

I look forward to a busy, exciting and productive start to the new millennium, and hope that it proves the same for the members of the TPN.

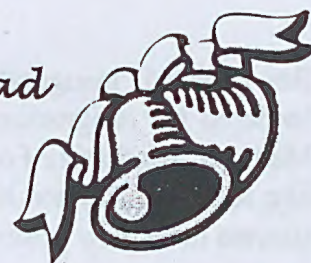
**AJ (Tony) Press**

**Director**

**Australian Antarctic Division**

*Wishing all ICE BREAKER readers a safe Christmas  
and  
a very prosperous New Year  
from Malcolm and Anthea Wallhead*

1999 - 2000





# THE GOVERNOR'S FORUM ON ANTARCTICA, THE SUB ANTARCTIC AND THE SOUTHERN OCEAN

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On Thursday 18th and Friday 19th of November 1999 the Governor of Tasmania, Sir Guy Green, held a Forum at Government House about Tasmania's involvement in Antarctica, the sub-Antarctic and the Southern Ocean.

The purpose of the Forum was to acquaint participants with recent developments, encourage a global view of Tasmania's involvement and to discuss how Tasmania can increase the extent of that involvement and the benefits which Tasmania can derive from it.

Participants in the Forum comprised about seventy people drawn from all aspects of Tasmania's Antarctic involvement including business, law and policy, science, tourism, environmental protection and fisheries.

The Forum was opened by the Governor, Sir Guy Green, followed by Mr Jim Bacon MHA, Premier of Tasmania and Minister for Antarctic Affairs, and the Honourable Peter Hodgman MHA, Shadow Minister for Antarctic Affairs.



**Peter Hodgman MHA**

At the conclusion of the opening, (which was the only session open to the media) other speakers covered the topics of The Foresight Exercise; Air Links to Antarctica; Tourism; Antarctica and the University of Tasmania; Education and Training; Environmental Protection and Heritage; and Commercial Business Opportunities.

The afternoon of the second day was devoted to the discussion of points raised during the Forum and to determining future actions to be taken to develop existing and forthcoming opportunities. To this end a committee comprising Professor Stoddart, Dr Pook and Mr Hughson was charged with overseeing the formation and operation of five working parties. These working parties are to investigate and report on the feasibility of the projects suggested by the Forum for development.

The five project groups are:-

- (1) **AIR LINKS**
- (2) **TOURISM**
- (3) **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**
- (4) **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**
- (5) **BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

The working groups are to report back to the Governor who will convene another Forum early in the year 2000 in order to take action according to the results of the working parties' findings.

There was an air of optimism at the close of the November Forum and a feeling that positive actions will eventuate from the decisions made at the Forum. If that is so, they will create many benefits not only for Tasmania but for all Polar related communities and Institutes, both on a National and on an International level.

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# **TASMANIA'S INTERNATIONAL ROLE IN ANTARCTIC AFFAIRS**

**BY  
THE HONOURABLE SIR GUY GREEN AC KBE  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**

**ADAPTED FROM THE OPENING ADDRESS - ANARE JUBILEE SYMPOSIUM**

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The Antarctic and the sub-Antarctic have been entrenched in the culture and history of Tasmania ever since the beginning of European settlement. During the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century Hobart welcomed and gave all kinds of support to a large number of Antarctic pioneers including giants in the history of Antarctic exploration such as Dumont d'Urville, James Clark Ross, Roald Amundsen and Sir Douglas Mawson. Since then Hobart has been extensively used by the ships of the Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions (ANARE), France, the United States and many other countries with an interest in the Antarctic. But Tasmania's connection has involved a good deal more than extending hospitality to expeditioners and provisioning, repairing and sometimes providing crews for their ships, important as that has been. Right from the beginning, Tasmania and Tasmanians have been closely involved in all aspects of Antarctic science and exploration. When Captain James Clark Ross arrived in Hobart before his great voyage to the Antarctic to find the South Magnetic Pole the Lieutenant-Governor Sir John Franklin on the same day upon which he first received Ross, started the construction in the grounds of Government House of a magnetic observatory for him which was completed in just nine days. As a result of the work done in that observatory it occupies a prime position in the history of geomagnetic observations, it providing in conjunction with observatories later established in Melbourne and Canberra one of if not the longest series of terrestrial magnetic observations in the world.

In the 1840s the Tasmanian Journal of Natural Science made significant contributions by publishing papers and articles about Antarctica which included reports on the expeditions and work of Ross and d'Urville and J. D. Hooker's observations on the botany of the sub-Antarctic. During the second half of the 19th century the Royal Society of Tasmania, incidentally the oldest Royal Society in the world outside the United Kingdom, did much to encourage Antarctic science and exploration by publishing papers and organising seminars and meetings. That tradition has continued to the present day. To take just one example from many, in 1987 the Royal Society published a most valuable volume of papers on Macquarie Island which had been given at a symposium the Society organised in conjunction with the Australian Antarctic Division and the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service.



Other interesting miscellaneous connections between Tasmanians and the Antarctic are that the Tasmanian physicist Louis Bernacchi was the first Australian to winter over in the Antarctic, a Tasmanian photographer J. W. Beattie developed Amundsen's photographic plates and the inventor of the radio telescope Dr Grote Reber who is an adopted son of Tasmania, he having lived and worked in Tasmania for some 30 years. He was an early expeditioner, having been initially prompted to come here in order to make observations on Macquarie Island where he spent a summer in the early 1950s. The first play about the Antarctic in the world, which was inspired by Ross's expedition, was performed in the Royal Victoria Theatre in Hobart in 1841. That may sound just an interesting bit of trivia but in fact it does demonstrate that interest in the Antarctic was not confined to scientists and explorers but extended to the general Tasmanian community as well.

During the 20th century Tasmania's Antarctic involvement continued and increased enormously so that today it is recognised as one of the major centres in the world for the doing of Antarctic science and related activities.

The Australian Antarctic Division is located here as is the Antarctic CRC which is one of the largest and most widely recognised polar research institutes in the world. Dozens of Tasmanian companies and organisations are involved in the provision of Antarctic supply, logistics and technical support and Hobart is the location of the International Secretariats of CCAMLR, the research into global change programme Glochant and the Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programmes. Three years ago a major new Antarctic tourist and education centre was opened in Hobart's Salamanca Square.

It is also worth reminding ourselves that Tasmania is in fact actually located in the sub-Antarctic, Macquarie Island not being an Australian external territory like, say, Heard Island or the Australian Antarctic Territory, but a part of Tasmania itself. More significantly, although Macquarie Island is not in the Antarctic it is nevertheless very much a part of ANARE, an ANARE station having operated on that island since 1948. Indeed, a building erected on Macquarie Island in 1948 called Chippy's Church, which is now used for hydroponics, must I think be one of the oldest ANARE structures still in use.

So the start of the new millennium takes on special significance for Tasmania because in a sense it can be seen as not only the culmination of 53 years of ANARE history but as the culmination of 170 years of Tasmanian history as well and, in the same spirit in which ANARE will be looking to the future at this time, Tasmania looks forward with great enthusiasm to increasing its involvement in the future in all things relating to the Antarctic, the sub-Antarctic and the Southern Ocean. But Tasmanians do not view that involvement from any parochial perspective. In essence we seek to continue the tradition which was established back in the days of Ross and d'Urville by doing all that we can to facilitate and support not only the work of ANARE and the rest of the Australian Antarctic community but the whole international Antarctic community as well.



# POLAR NEWS

## PLANT HOUSE PROGRESS

A panoramic mural which depicts the landscape and flora of Macquarie Island has now been painted on the inner walls of the Sub-Antarctic Plant House at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens. Created by John Lendis, the mural will provide a backdrop to actual samples of Macquarie Island Cabbage and other sub-Antarctic species of flora, which are due to be planted in the specially cooled building during summer.

## BISCUIT EXTRA

At a recent Christie's auction, an unknown bidder purchased the remains of a biscuit found near Captain Robert Scott's frozen body for \$10,080, when the estimated bid was only \$2,500.

## B.A.S. ROBOT

British Antarctic Survey intend to use a robot to melt its way down under the 4 km ice sheet over Lake Vostok in Antarctica. The robot will then attach itself to the underside of the ice sheet and release a hydrobot, which is a remote-operated submarine equipped with a camera. This vehicle will dive into the lake and explore the sediment which could be up to 40 million years old and could contain unknown microbes and other ancient organisms.

## ANTARCTIC FISHERIES RESEARCH

Senator Robert Hill recently announced a new research program which will provide a scientific basis for sustainable fisheries management in the Southern Ocean. Called the Antarctic Marine Living Resources Program, and based at the Australian Antarctic Division, the research will be led by Dr Stephen Nichol. The 7 scientists and 4 support staff will be supplemented by other Australian and overseas researchers, whose work will enhance Australia's commitment to CCAMLR's recommendations.

## MAWSON SQUARE

The Hobart City Council has given approval to Stage 1 of the new civic square on the Argyle Street side of Constitution Dock, and work is scheduled to begin in March 2000. Stage 1 will include partial demolition and alteration of the existing building on the site so that it can possibly house a cultural centre or exhibit memorabilia of Sir Douglas Mawson. Stage 2 will finalise traffic movements in the area and Stage 3 will include new buildings and the development of an internal courtyard on the block nearby.

## BRAZILIAN POLAR SAIL

Amyr Klink, a Brazilian yachtsman who has recently returned from a trip around Antarctica, is now planning a 3 year, 80,500 km polar circumnavigation in his yacht PARATII 2 which is currently being built. The aluminium yacht will be rigged with Aerorig, which consists of 2 free-standing, carbon fibre masts which rotate on bearings. The masts are equipped with jib and mainsail and have fibreglass booms extending forward and aft. The entire rig can be controlled by a single line which can be adjusted by working the mainsheet.

## CREVASSE CRASH

A biologist who fell into a crevasse while participating in a field training exercise on a 4WD motorcycle was rescued and treated at Mawson Station by the resident doctor Madeline Roe and a Hobart doctor Brian Walpole, who was flown in especially from AURORA AUSTRALIS by helicopter to assist. After surgery and observation, the biologist, Raina Plowright, was flown to the ship by helicopter for return to Hobart.

## OPEN DAY

The Marine Discovery Centre's Open Day at Woodbridge in September was a great success, with over 2000 visitors attending and spending time at all the maritime attractions. Nearly 600 took advantage of free trips on the PENGHANA, and the LADY NELSON was well supported on her cruises too.



# POLAR NEWS

## EXPECTED NUMBERS OF ANTARCTIC AND SUB-ANTARCTIC TOURISTS IN TRANSIT IN S. GATEWAY PORTS

### WHALE SITE

Senator Robert Hill launched Greenpeace's Internet Petition for a permanent world haven for whales in September, and Greenpeace is looking for 1 million signatures to be added to it. Japan and Norway have already killed 1078 whales this year and the Federal Government is happy to support Greenpeace's call for total protection of whales. For further details see: [www.greenpeace.org.au/globalwhalesanctuary](http://www.greenpeace.org.au/globalwhalesanctuary)

### B-10A

Photos and information about the large iceberg likely to be a shipping hazard near the Antarctic Peninsula can be found on the US National Ice Center's website: <http://www.natice.noaa.gov/>

Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego	10,000
Stanley, Falkland Islands	2,000 +
	3,000 'day' visitors
Buenos Aires, Argentina	1,300
Lyttleton, New Zealand	450
Punta Arenas, Chile	350
Hobart, Tasmania	300 planned
Bluff, New Zealand	140

Ports with fewer ships and passengers:

- Puerto Madryn, Argentina
- Dunedin and Wellington, NZ
- Reunion Island, Indian Ocean
- Cape Town, South Africa
- Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

(Thanks to Antarctic Non-Government Activity News - ANAN - for this information).





# THE TASMANIAN POLAR NETWORK

Tasmania is an Island State with strong geographical, biological, geological and historical links to Antarctica and the Southern Ocean.

The island was home to a major whaling and sealing industry that started in the early part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Tasmania's historical connection with the Southern Continent began when James Cook landed over 200 years ago. In more recent times, Tasmania hosted and has been the departure and return point for innumerable expeditioners to the Continent.

Hobart, Tasmania's capital has a number of major advantages in the field of Antarctic Science and logistics. It is one of the world's largest centres for education and research in Antarctic and Southern Ocean science. Its institutions incorporate the Australian Antarctic Division, the Institute of Antarctic and Southern Ocean Studies, the Co-operative Research Centre for the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Environment, the CSIRO's Division of Marine Research and the Bureau of Meteorology, Antarctic Section. Organisations supporting Antarctic research, conservation and logistics also located in Hobart are the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, the Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs, the Standing Committee on Antarctic Research, Global Change Secretariat and Antarctic Adventure an edutainment centre based on Antarctic themes.

Hobart is a place of stable government with co-operative port and local authorities. The harbour and city are safe and the Port is virtually free from industrial disputation.

These attributes provided the Tasmanian Government with the incentive to develop its physical and financial association with Antarctica and the Southern Ocean. The initiative culminated with the 1993 establishment of the Tasmanian Government's Office of Antarctic Affairs and the Tasmanian Polar Network.

A number of Government sponsored committees associated with Antarctica had existed before the Network came into being. The precursor to the Network was the Antarctic Advisory Committee. This Committee predominantly brought together members of the Public sector and private industry persons engaged in re-supply. To a degree this Committee was accused by some of its members to be too involved in discussion with little following action.

To overcome this problem it was agreed in June 1993 to establish another entity consisting of representatives from private enterprise, the University of Tasmania, the Australian Antarctic Division and other relevant federal and state public sector bodies. The original goal of the group was to consider ways and means of becoming known on the world's Polar stage.

This decision led to the group needing an identity. Reflecting on its ambition to be relevant to both Polar areas rather than to the Antarctic alone, members accepted a name suggested by Anthea Wallhead of Malcolm Wallhead and Associates and the Tasmanian Polar Network (TPN) came into being.

At the time all the known major research, education institutions, government bodies and private industry firms involved in the Antarctic and Antarctic re-supply became members of the Network. The advantage of the TPN was to provide a value-added service. Value adding came through members organising themselves for the benefit of national and international expeditions. By networking their activities, members were also offering an increased range of services and products to prospective buyers.





**Salamanca Place: Site of the Registered Office of the Tasmanian Polar Network**

The Tasmanian Government originally drove the TPN. Strong bipartisan political support and endorsement by the then Minister for Antarctic Affairs the Hon Peter Hodgman enabled the TPN to produce promotional material and attend the SCAR/COMNAP meeting in Rome in 1994. This attendance along with later promotions at Cambridge UK, the production of brochures (part sponsored by TPN members) and newsletters was designed to increase recognition of the group and promote the various attributes of its members amongst the international and national Antarctic community.

In addition the TPN supported the Government's decision to officially recognise Antarctic related visitors to the State and often used these occasions to develop future connections with international expeditions. Members particularly active at this time were Michael Chung of Chung Sing and Company and the Hobart Port's Corporation.

The political bipartisan approach of the Tasmanian Government provided the Governor of the State with the opportunity to promote Tasmania's Antarctic connection and capacity. The availability of the Office of the Governor and Government House for this purpose provided the State's drive for international recognition with significant momentum.

Between 1993 and 1997 the TPN functioned as a loose affiliation of members drawn together to exchange information and to participate in promotional activities. At the end of that period it had, in conjunction with Government successfully promoted the State as an Antarctic destination and achieved for the State a reputation for hosting visiting expeditions. A warm welcome was guaranteed when visiting Hobart.

In 1997 the TPN membership agreed the organisation needed to formalise its structure and determine objectives and strategies. It formerly elected a Chairman and Committee thereby confirming the independence of the organisation. At the same time it was agreed a membership fee would be charged to

*Continued next page*



provide a small measure of operating funds for the organisation. This fee allowed the TPN to develop promotional activities without needing assistance of Government.

To this time the organisation has been primarily engaged in generic promotion and hosting visiting expeditions

In 1999 the TPN saw the need to incorporate as an organisation. This process provided financial protection to members and at the same time established formal rules of procedure for its operation. It incorporated in January 1999. At the same time it realised it needed to reassess its direction and method of operation.

The process of international promotion and hosting Antarctic visitors to the State had been productive over time. TPN members agreed that these functions continued to have merit and should remain an integral part of the organisation's operation. However a core of the membership felt that the organisation should also be engaged in activities involved with the longer-term development of Polar business in the State. For this reason the organisational goals and objectives of the TPN were re-examined and determined at a search conference of members held in February 1999.

The TPN agreed that increasing the total amount of money spent in Tasmania on goods and services associated with Antarctica, the sub-Antarctic and the Southern Ocean was a worthwhile goal for the organisation.

This decision led to the development of two objectives and a number of strategies. These were

**1) To increase funds spent in Tasmania on supplies and services related to Antarctic and the Southern Ocean.**

- a) Co-operate with international Governments, the Australian Antarctic Division and other Antarctic Institutions to attract additional visits to the State through the medium of an intercontinental air service, ship visits, symposia, meetings and conferences.
- b) Identify opportunities for applied research that will lead to the development of technology to meet demand created by Antarctic expeditions.
- c) Maximise international exposure of the State in relevant national and international Antarctic and related forums.
- d) Develop education and training courses in subjects related to Antarctica and the Southern Ocean.
- e) Promote Hobart and Tasmania's location, historical, geological and biological links with Antarctica to enhance visitor numbers and experiences.
- f) Improve the TPN home page and develop E-commerce to a maximum possible level.

**2) To increase the amount of funds spent on Tasmanian business/activities for supplies and services related to Antarctic and the Southern Ocean.**

- a) Improve the communication links between the TPN and the Australian Antarctic Division.
- b) Improve the communication links between the TPN and the Federal Government.
- c) Develop elements of the Antarctic infrastructure in Hobart so it is more relevant to foreseen needs.

The objectives and strategies provide the current development plan for TPN activity into the future. Of predominant interest at the moment is the desire to ensure State industry has the capacity to benefit from the proposed air link between Hobart and Antarctica should it eventuate.

**Tony Hughson, Secretary TPN**



# POLAR PORTALS

## A BRIEF GUIDE TO HOBART'S ANTARCTIC ASSETS

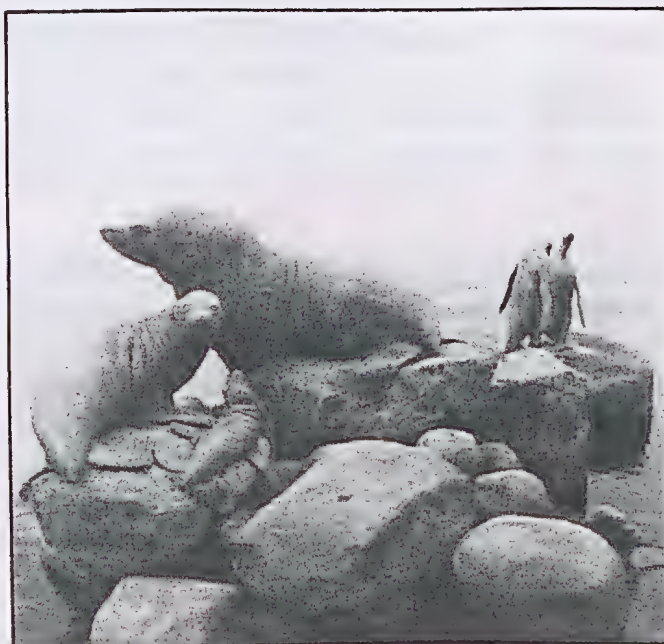
Hobart's links with navigators of the Southern Ocean and explorers of the Antarctic continent and sub-Antarctic islands began centuries ago. The era of whalers and sealers, Captain Cook and Abel Tasman, then the early twentieth century expeditions to Antarctica by men such as Mawson, Scott and Amundsen, have all been documented and publicised. However, fewer people are aware of the significance of Hobart's present Antarctic connections, which will play an international role in developments planned for the new millennium.

Complementing the existing museums, as well as the historic and more recent polar monuments, the Port of Hobart and the streets surrounding Sullivan's Cove now boast a growing number of modern businesses, authorities and scientific research establishments which demonstrate Hobart's current status as Australia's Antarctic Capital. Whilst Hobart is disadvantaged by its distance from some Antarctic areas of research, no other 'gateway' to Antarctica consists of such a broad spectrum of polar and maritime facilities and expertise.

The places indicated on the map on the following page represent only the 'tip of the iceberg' of these facilities, with other research and educational establishments to the south of Hobart such as the Antarctic Co-operative Research Centre at the University of Tasmania in Sandy Bay, and the Australian Antarctic Division in Kingston.

Representatives of these centres and of the State Government, as well as a large group of independent commercial organisations throughout Tasmania, have created the Tasmanian Polar Network Inc., and it is the co-operative efforts of this group which are responsible for the promotion and development of Hobart's significance as a major departure point for Antarctic and Southern Ocean expeditions.

With the proposed expansion of the air transport infrastructure for flights to Antarctica and the existing port facilities for resupplying Australian and international ice-strengthened ships, Hobart can look forward to an even greater competitive edge over any other departure points to the south.



**This article reveals some of Hobart's polar and maritime connections and begins on the southern side of Sullivan's Cove at the CSIRO buildings (1) in Castray Esplanade. (All numbers relate to those on the map next page).**

The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) has a long association with scientific research in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean. Scientists regularly voyage to Antarctica on the AURORA AUSTRALIS with Australian Antarctic Division expeditioners, or are involved in fisheries research on the SOUTHERN SURVEYOR. Both vessels are to be seen moored at Princes Wharf between voyages and over the winter months.

*Continued next page*



The CSIRO is also one of the 5 organisations that make up the Antarctic CRC, and the organisation's Science Education Centre (CSIROSEC) for school students is situated in North Hobart. Visitors to CSIRO can select leaflets outlining aspects of marine research undertaken, and the canteen is open to the public.

Castray Esplanade runs parallel to **Salamanca Place (2)**, which was originally a resupply wharf for ships used by sealers and whalers, some of whom lived in nearby Battery Point when not hunting in southern and Antarctic waters. On the lawns of Salamanca Place is an example of a whaler's cast iron **Trypot (3)** used to boil up blubber. No.81 Salamanca Place, on the first floor of one of the old sandstone warehouses is **Astrolabe Booksellers (4)**, specialists in rare books including those relating to Antarctica and Tasmania.

By turning down one of the passageways between the Salamanca warehouses, one enters Salamanca Square, a recently developed area backing on to historic Battery Point. The centre of the Square is enhanced by a fountain and bronze sculptures by Tasmanian artist Stephen Walker. Called **Journeys to the Southland (5)**, these sculptured pieces indicate the names of French, British and Dutch ships associated with early voyages to Tasmania and Antarctica.

To the right of the shops and apartments overlooking the Square is **Antarctic Adventure (6)**, an infotainment centre featuring aspects of Antarctic research and exploration. Up the stairs to the left of this tourist attraction is the **Office of Antarctic Affairs (7)**, the State Government operated facility which promotes Hobart as an international gateway to Antarctica. The OAA is also the registered office of the Tasmanian Polar Network and acts as a liaison centre between the Government and private businesses involved in Antarctic activities.

Sharing the OAA facilities is the Executive Secretary for COMNAP, the Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs, which is one of several international Antarctic Secretariats with offices in Hobart.

On returning to Salamanca Place through its nearest access to the Square, the **Abel Tasman Monument (8)** is visible diagonally across the road. This commemorates the early Dutch navigators and explorers of Australian coastlines, and includes a statue of Abel Tasman, after whom the state of Tasmania was named.

Another spot to visit in this part of Salamanca Place is No.29, the **Salamanca Maxilab** and the **Antarctic Connection (9)**, which has provided photographic supplies and processing facilities for Antarctic expeditioners for many years and which also stocks a range of Antarctic souvenirs.

Crossing Salamanca Place to Castray Esplanade and Morrison Street leads one to **Waterman's Dock (10)**, where Interpretation Signs explain some of the history of Sullivan's Cove and Hobart's links with the Southern Ocean. Over the road from this dock is **Peter Johnston Pty Ltd (11)**, a ship chandlers which has been supplying equipment for Antarctic and Southern Ocean expeditions for over 35 years.

Following the waterfront along Franklin Wharf, one passes the **Marine Board Building (12)**, which houses the Hobart Ports Corporation and P&O Polar, owners and operators of Australia's Antarctic ship AURORA AUSTRALIS. Also resident here are Monson Shipping P/L and Beaufort Shipping Agency, who along with Holyman Stevedoring Services in Salamanca Place all supply services to Antarctic-bound ships from countries such as France, Italy and China, as well as Australia.

Around the corner and fronting on to Constitution Dock, is the proposed site of **Mawson Place (13)**, named after the famous Antarctic explorer Sir Douglas Mawson. This area is soon to be developed to highlight Hobart's strong historical links with Antarctic and maritime activities.

Further north on Franklin Wharf near the swing bridge for Victoria Dock is **Heading South (14)**, a group of bronze sculptures of seals and penguins on natural rocks by Stephen Walker. This piece was placed here in recognition of Hobart's long association with the Antarctic and sub-Antarctic and it is also near the site of the old Queen's



Wharf where Mawson's AURORA was moored before his 1911-14 Antarctic expedition. Nowadays the French polar ship L'ASTROLABE can often be seen moored here between voyages and during the winter months.

The sets of **Interpretation Signs (15)** and memorial nearby have information about the founding of Hobart and early dockside industries, and the **Drunken Admiral Restaurant (16)** at 17 Hunter Street features a large collection of maritime artifacts.

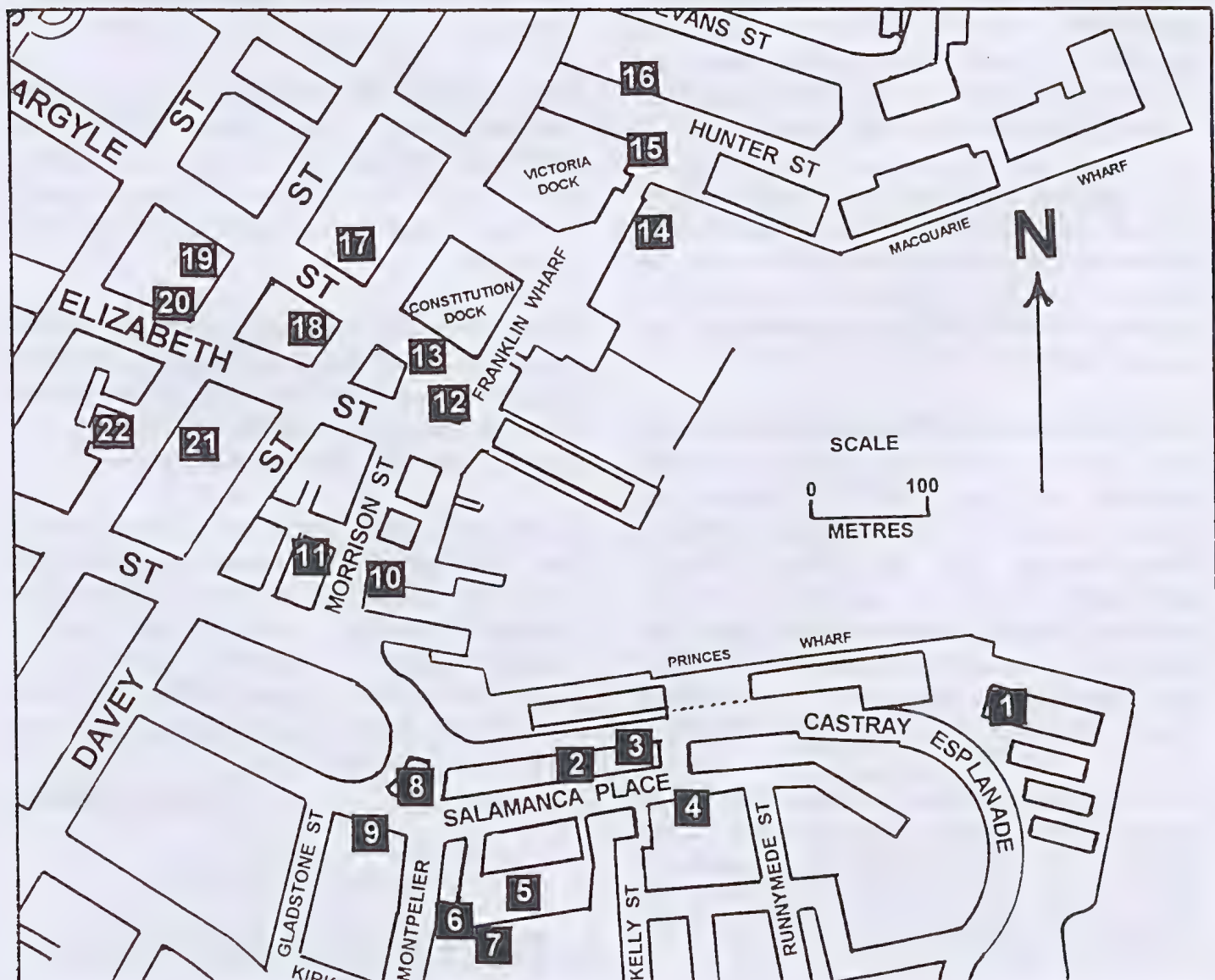
Turning back towards the city, it is only a short walk to the **Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (17)** on the corner of Argyle and Davey Streets overlooking Constitution Dock. The TMAG maintains several displays relating to the Antarctic and Southern Ocean, and across Argyle Street is the Carnegie Building, which now houses the **Maritime Museum (18)**.

Macquarie Street also has associations with Antarctic activities, and these include **The Mercury (19)** newspaper buildings, where reporting of Antarctic expeditions has continued since its establishment in 1854, and the **G.P.O. (20)**, from where Roald Amundsen sent his telegram announcing his reaching the South Pole in 1912.

**Franklin Square (21)** in the next block is the site of the statue of Sir John Franklin, early Governor of Van Diemens Land and polar explorer, as well as Interpretation Signs including other Antarctic explorers such as Hobart scientist, Louis Bernacchi.

Further up Macquarie Street is the sculpture of penguins, seals and skuas outside No.111, which houses the **Tasmanian and Antarctic Regional Office of the Bureau of Meteorology (22)**.

*Continued next page*





Other streets in Hobart which have Antarctic links include Murray Street, with Hadley's Hotel at No.34 featuring the Amundsen Suite in memory of his stay in 1912, and the State Library at No.91, where reference material on sealing, whaling and Antarctic expeditions leaving from Tasmania is kept.

The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) is another international secretariat with headquarters in Hobart, at 137 Harrington Street. Members of the Tasmanian Polar Network and associated suppliers in the Hobart area include consulting engineers and ships providers.

To the north of the city on the Queen's Domain is the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, where a specially designed Sub-Antarctic Plant House is being developed, featuring the flora of Macquarie Island. Further north is the Hobart Cemetery at Cornelian Bay where there is a memorial to the French who have died during Antarctic expeditions, from the 1830s to the present day. Saint Albans Church in Claremont features a stained glass window with a polar motif.

TPN members in the northern suburbs include suppliers of polar fuels and gases, marine engineering, antennas and Caterpillar tractors for polar traverses, while in the north of the State are suppliers of marine electronic equipment and field training programs.

Across the Tasman Bridge to the eastern shore leads one to Cambridge where Helicopter Resources Pty Ltd supply helicopters for Antarctic expeditions from Australia, Germany, China, Pakistan, Italy and France. Hobart's International Airport is expected to be the Australian departure point for flights of goods and personnel to Antarctica in the new millennium. Other TPN members on the eastern shore include suppliers of marine safety equipment, foodstuffs.

To the south of Hobart at Sandy Bay is the Derwent Sailing Squadron headquarters, where Amundsen was elected as an honorary member in 1912. On the hills overlooking the DSS is the University of Tasmania, where in 1988 the

Institute of Antarctic and Southern Ocean Studies (IASOS) was established, and where the Library of Science and Technology contains Antarctic reference books and magazines. The Antarctic CRC and consultants on energy systems and environmental concerns are also focussed here.

On the Channel Highway further south at Kingston is the Australian Antarctic Division, which is responsible for all aspects of Australian Antarctic expeditions. There is a museum, library and canteen available to the public and the grounds feature samples of Antarctic flora and rock formations as well as sculptures of seals and penguins.

TPN members operating south of Hobart include those supplying specialist air transport systems and building materials and Kettering, the departure point for Bruny Island, is the location of the small business which manufactures the fibreglass igloos used by polar expeditioners in 15 countries.

By taking the ferry to Bruny Island, one can visit Adventure Bay, where ships carrying early explorers of the Southern Ocean dropped anchor, and the Bligh Museum which houses memorabilia of these voyages and early reference books about Antarctica.

Alternatively, by continuing down the Channel Highway to Woodbridge one can visit the Marine Discovery Centre in Jetty Road, where students research marine life and contact Antarctic base leaders as part of their educational studies.

Further information about any of the Antarctic- and Southern Ocean- related facilities and landmarks mentioned can be found by visiting individual businesses; contacting the Office of Antarctic Affairs in Salamanca Square or the Australian Antarctic Division at Kingston, and by investigating historical references at the State Library in Murray Street.

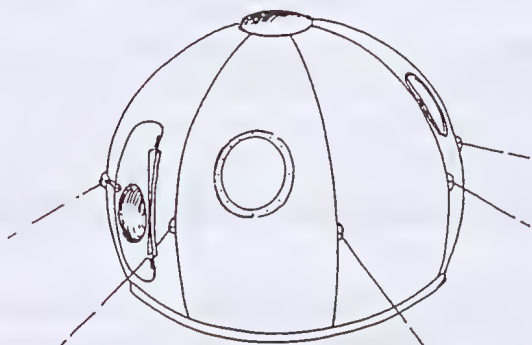
**Anthea Wallhead**



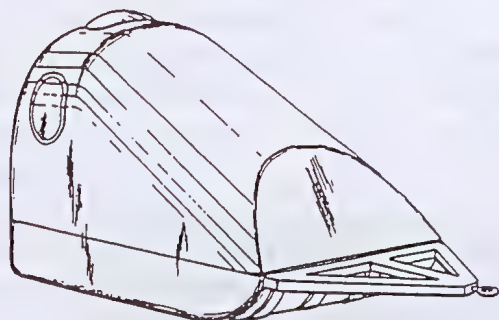
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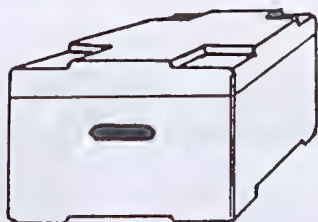
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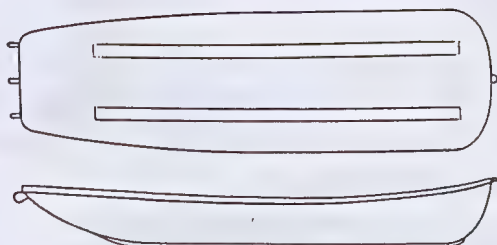
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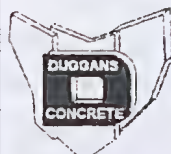
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# TPN DELEGATION TO CANBERRA

The following two reports were prepared for inclusion in this edition of ICE BREAKER magazine by the Chairman of the TPN, Bill Lawson.

---

On 13/10/99 a TPN delegation led by Bill Lawson met in Canberra with Minister Robert Hill and also separately with his Parliamentary Secretary, Senator Ian McDonald.

The purpose of the meetings was to-

- Acknowledge the Federal Government's confidence in recognising Hobart as the preferred departure point for the proposed Antarctic Airlink.
- Acquaint the Minister and his colleague with the existence and purpose of the TPN
- Establish a working relationship and contact between the Minister's Office and the TPN.

The delegation comprised-

- Bill Lawson as Leader and Chair of the TPN
- Prof. Garth Paltridge representing the Science Sector of the TPN
- Jack Sayers representing the International Sector of the TPN
- Jim Playsted representing the Commercial Sector of the TPN
- Tim Abey representing the Commercial Sector of Tasmania.

The Delegation was very well received by the Minister and his Adviser with whom we spent 30 minutes before he was required in the Senate. Individual members of the team spoke on behalf of their sector using a Presentation Booklet which was prepared for the occasion (a copy is held by Cordula in OAA if any TPN Member wishes to peruse it).. After our Presentation was complete Minister Hill somewhat stunned us by asking why we had not addressed Antarctic Tourism in it; we had been advised to not do so due to it's sensitivity. (Clearly though it is positively anticipated by the Minister so it is something to which the TPN should now address it's attention).

After meeting Senator Hill the Delegation then met for over an hour with Senator McDonald and his Adviser and repeated the formal Presentation in a more relaxed atmosphere. This was followed by an informal discussion of the issues involved.

The objectives of the Delegation were, I feel, well achieved in that both the Minister and his Secretary as well as their respective Advisers are now well aware of the TPN and it's Objectives. Most importantly, I believe we established a 'voice' in the Airlink process now well in progress. The challenge now to us as a Network is to meet the expectations now held of us in Canberra.

I note that the Delegation was undertaken with the full knowledge of senior staff of AAD and debriefs have been provided immediately after our return. I believe we need to be thoughtful of working closely with all key Players with an interest or role in developing the Airlink so that we all act in a coordinated manner. The TPN needs to be part of the process but 'in our place', so to speak.

I would be happy to provide fuller details to any Network Member on request.



# CHRISTCHURCH BASED AIRLINKS

As Chairman of the TPN I visited Christchurch on 10/11/99 and 11/11/99 in order to get a first hand look at the USA, NZ and Italian Airlinks which operate out of that city's Airport. In particular, I sought to see and understand the businesses which support the airlinks and to ascertain what they have to teach us here in Hobart. I think that the TPN needs to anticipate opportunities of a supporting commercial nature which may or could be required or found to be possible 'off the back' of a Hobart based Airlink to Antarctica. We cannot expect those charged with 'getting it off the ground' to focus on these peripheral issues even though they may be found to be of a substantial potential benefit to Tasmania. Further, such opportunities are inevitably of a commercial nature and are best found and developed by those of us of a commercial ilk. They need spotting and recognition for opportunity potential.

I believe that it follows that to reconnoitre existing Antarctic Airlinks is a quick and realistic way to understand the issues and constraints; hence my visit to Christchurch.

In Christchurch I centred by attentions around the USA's efforts through the National Science Foundation's contracted service supplier, Antarctic Support Associates, based in Denver, Colorado. Prior to going, I had established top level linkages with ASA in both Christchurch and Denver through Jim Playsted's visits to their Head Office in Denver; Jim's Report has been previously circulated to TPN Members.

*Continued next page*





I was warmly received by Brian Stone who leads ASA in Christchurch and then passed over to several of his staff who in turn showed me around and answered my questions-which were many. I will elaborate in anecdotal form at the Network meeting on 3/12/99 but suffice to say here that opportunities are clearly evident in the fields of Travel Agency, Accommodation, Provision of fresh foods and produce, and Maintenance and Airport facilities. It is widely accepted in Christchurch that the US Airlink is worth between \$40M and \$50M to NZ for such supporting functions. This has only been the case in the last couple of years following changes to how the NSF operates where ASA now handle aspects of the Airlink previously the province of the US Navy. However, the US Airforce still operates the Airlink planes in the revised arrangements.

The Airlinks operated out of Christchurch by NZ and Italy are clearly heavily dependent on the US Program but they add to the value of peripheral benefit enjoyed by Christchurch and NZ. It should be noted that the numbers served by the US+NZ+Italian Airlinks need to be seen first against those likely for a Hobart Airlink serving the Australian Antarctic effort in the first instance and then against those possible IF we are able to get to service other countries through Hobart.

In addition to meeting ASA personnel I spent some time with Antarctic NZ people and Christchurch City Council Officers although it needs to be accepted that my presence and purpose there was seen as a threat in part. Fair enough, I think!

I believe that our own city is able to emulate and better much of what Christchurch Council does in support of the Airlink and it's Patrons although it was evident that the Chamber of Commerce is also active but I was unable to look into this in the time available.

I noted also the University of Canterbury's provision of courses in Antarctic Studies at other than undergraduate and Higher Degree levels in order to tap and serve a lower level market for both citizens and Antarctic 'new chums'.

I also visited the International Antarctic Centre which is the counterpart of Hobart's Antarctic Adventure and is located adjacent to the Airlink facilities at Christchurch Airport. Whilst this allows it's integration into the 'action' there it does not have the locational ambience of Salamanca Square close to the historic departure points on Hobart's waterfront.

In summary a couple of things emerge for the TPN's commercial members; (1) Go and look and learn from Christchurch; (2) Participate in 'dreaming the dream' for Hobart by looking for opportunities 'off the back' of a Hobart Airlink. We cannot expect the people charged with investigating and implementing the Airlink itself to do so for us as theirs is necessarily a focused task. We are fortunate indeed to have such an excellent level of cooperation and access from these people. What is required is the application of imagination and commercial acumen both of which we clearly have within the membership of the TPN. I would be pleased to debrief in more detail personally to any individual members of the TPN.

*Bill Lawson.* Chairman, TPN.



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## **ICE RUNWAY TEAM PREPARES TO FLY TO ANTARCTICA**

Four personnel from the Australian Antarctic Division are in Punta Arenas in Southern Chile preparing to fly deep into Antarctica to investigate potential ice runway sites near Australia's Antarctic stations. This work follows the release earlier this year of the Antarctic Air Transport Study, which was accepted and endorsed by the Environment Minister Robert Hill.

The team will be looking at potential "blue ice" sites near the Davis research station and in the Bunger Hills region. The investigations this summer were recommended in the study of Antarctic Air Transport options. The team, which will include three other personnel already in Antarctica, will undertake detailed surveys and glaciological observations of a number of potential ice runway sites. The team will also be deploying automatic weather stations and doing preliminary biological investigations. These investigations will confirm whether or not it is viable to fly wheeled aircraft directly from Australia to snow-free ice runways in Antarctica. If these sites prove viable an intercontinental air link can be established without great construction costs, and significantly reduced environmental impact.

Following analysis of the studies over this summer, final options for air transport will be made and market tested. Environmental impact evaluations will also need to be completed. It is hoped that a final decision on air transport for the Australian Antarctic program will be made in 2000.

## **SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME FOR 18TH CCAMLR MEETING**

Efforts of Australia and other CCAMLR Parties were rewarded at this years meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources when it adopted a Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) for Toothfish. The CDS will provide measures to clamp down on pirate fishing and trade of the threatened Patagonian toothfish. Under the scheme, a new catch document will be required before toothfish can enter the markets of CCAMLR parties and this will significantly improve CCAMLR parties' ability to sustain this important fishery.

The measure was welcomed by the Environment Minister Senator Hill who said " By reducing the extent of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, it will also save the lives of thousands of seabirds, including endangered albatrosses, killed on the longlines used by such fishers." Senator Hill also said that he was pleased that his efforts during his visit to CCAMLR the previous week, to pursue adoption of the scheme, had paid off. "Most nations recognised the urgency of new trade measures." he said. "While Australia had pursued stronger language for some aspects of the scheme, we are confident that the Catch Documentation Scheme will make it much harder for poachers to access toothfish markets."

The documentation scheme adopted by the 29 Parties to CCAMLR will significantly improve the package of measures to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, requiring fishing vessel masters and their flag States to declare, on a special catch document form, where and how toothfish were caught.

Australia has been seriously concerned by widespread poaching in the remote southern oceans, which in recent years has taken more than twice the amount of approved catches and threatened the sustainability of the Patagonian toothfish fishery and the these international measures will complement Australia's own actions to stop pirate fishing. Australia will now concentrate its efforts on getting countries who are involved in the toothfish trade and who are not members of CCAMLR to join the convention, and on ensuring that the current scheme is implemented to full effect

**From the Office of Dr Tony Press, Director, Australian Antarctic Division.**





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# POLAR NEWS

## CONGRATULATIONS TO:

**Sir Guy Green**, who was recently re-appointed by Premier Jim Bacon to serve as Governor of Tasmania until October 2003. A keen supporter of Antarctic activities, Sir Guy was host to the second Governor's Forum on Tasmania's Involvement in Antarctica, the Sub-Antarctic and Southern Ocean which was held in November.

**Dr Tony Worby** from the Antarctic CRC, who won a Fulbright Scholarship to further research the extent of sea ice in the Southern Ocean and the effect of changes to sea ice mass and energy on global climate. From April 2000, Dr Worby will spend 6-8 months at the Geophysical Institute at the University of Alaska, and the rest of his year away at the NASA/Goddard Space flight Center in Washington DC, USA.

**W. Chung Sing & Co.**, which won the Services Award of Tasmania's Export Awards announced in October 1999.

**Antarctic Adventure**, Tasmania's winner of the 1999 Australian Tourism Awards in the 'Major Tourist Attractions' category.

## ANOTHER WHALE ALERT

Rescuing the world's largest animal, the Blue Whale, from Australia's Endangered Species List, is the aim of Environment Australia's \$1 million, 5 year recovery plan. By initiating conservation measures with other countries, EA intends to monitor these widely dispersed, migrating whales so that more knowledge is gained of their numbers, migration routes and breeding grounds in the Southern Hemisphere.

## MACQUARIE ISLAND MARINE PARK

For a map and information about this new park:  
<http://www.environment.gov.au/net/macquarie.html>

## MORE COPY

At the time ICE BREAKER was launched in December 1997, all Tasmanian-based Antarctic magazines and newsletters had ceased publication, and it is interesting to note that it took nearly two years for others in the Hobart Antarctic community to realise the importance of communicating useful information to each other and to the public. Our last issue mentioned the start of Antarctic Non-Government Activity News (ANAN) available through the Antarctic Division's website and via E-mail. Then, on October 18 this year, the latest Antarctic news service was launched, entitled "The Antarctic", and this is available at:- [www.antarctican.com/](http://www.antarctican.com/) Edited by journalist Andrew Darby, produced by Ice Sheet Media in Hobart and assisted by IASOS at the University of Tasmania, TA aims to "deliver the latest news and comment on Antarctic life, South Polar endeavour, the world of the ice, and the Southern Ocean around it" by collating stories from around the world.

## SOUTH POLE TREK

To follow the progress made by Antarctic adventurers Peter Tresseder and Tim Jarvis, check [www.news.com.au/journey](http://www.news.com.au/journey)

## COMNAP'S EXTRA

COMNAP'S Tourism & Non-Government Activities Working Group (TANGO) has increased its membership to six, so that it can co-ordinate information about tourist activities as well as maintain its existing relationship with Antarctic tourist groups (IAATO).

## GREENPEACE VISIT

The Greenpeace ice-breaker ARCTIC SUNRISE arrived in Hobart in October, during the CCAMLR meetings, to support the campaign against Patagonian Toothfish pirate fishing. The ship also docked for a major, 5-year overhaul for certification purposes. Captain Arne Sorensen, a veteran of many Greenpeace maritime campaigns, provided ICE BREAKER with an outline of the ship's campaign voyages for a later issue.



# NORTHERN NEWS

## VIRAL SCARE

A virus existing over 140,000 years ago has been discovered by US researchers in samples taken from the Greenland ice pack. This has led virologists to predict that global warming could cause ancient strains of diseases such as smallpox to re-emerge and, if still infectious, create incurable epidemics. Further research will be undertaken to assess the potential threat posed by these viruses.

## OUT OF ICE

The world's first mammoth-defrosting laboratory will be established at Khatange in Russia, after a 23 tonne lump of ice containing a 20,000-year-old entire woolly mammoth was excavated from the tundra and flown by helicopter to ice caves near the town. Bernard Buigues, a French entrepreneur, raised funds to move the mammoth and now needs sponsors to continue the project and attract tourists. He intends to widen the doors to the caves and build a glass wall between the tourists and the laboratory, where scientists hope to carry out experimental cloning with the male mammoth.

## NORTHERN EXPEDITION

Anyone interested in finding out about a joint Canadian-Norwegian Arctic wintering expedition can follow it at [www.sverdrup2000.org](http://www.sverdrup2000.org). This is the Otto Sverdrup Centennial Expedition during 1999-2000 and includes regular updates and an educational program.

## ICE CD

The National Ice Center in Washington DC is currently working with the Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission - Environmental working group to declassify, digitize and compile 19 years of Arctic sea ice climatology data, which will be included in a joint US-Russian Federation Sea Ice Atlas CD-ROM.

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# CATERPILLARS ON ICE

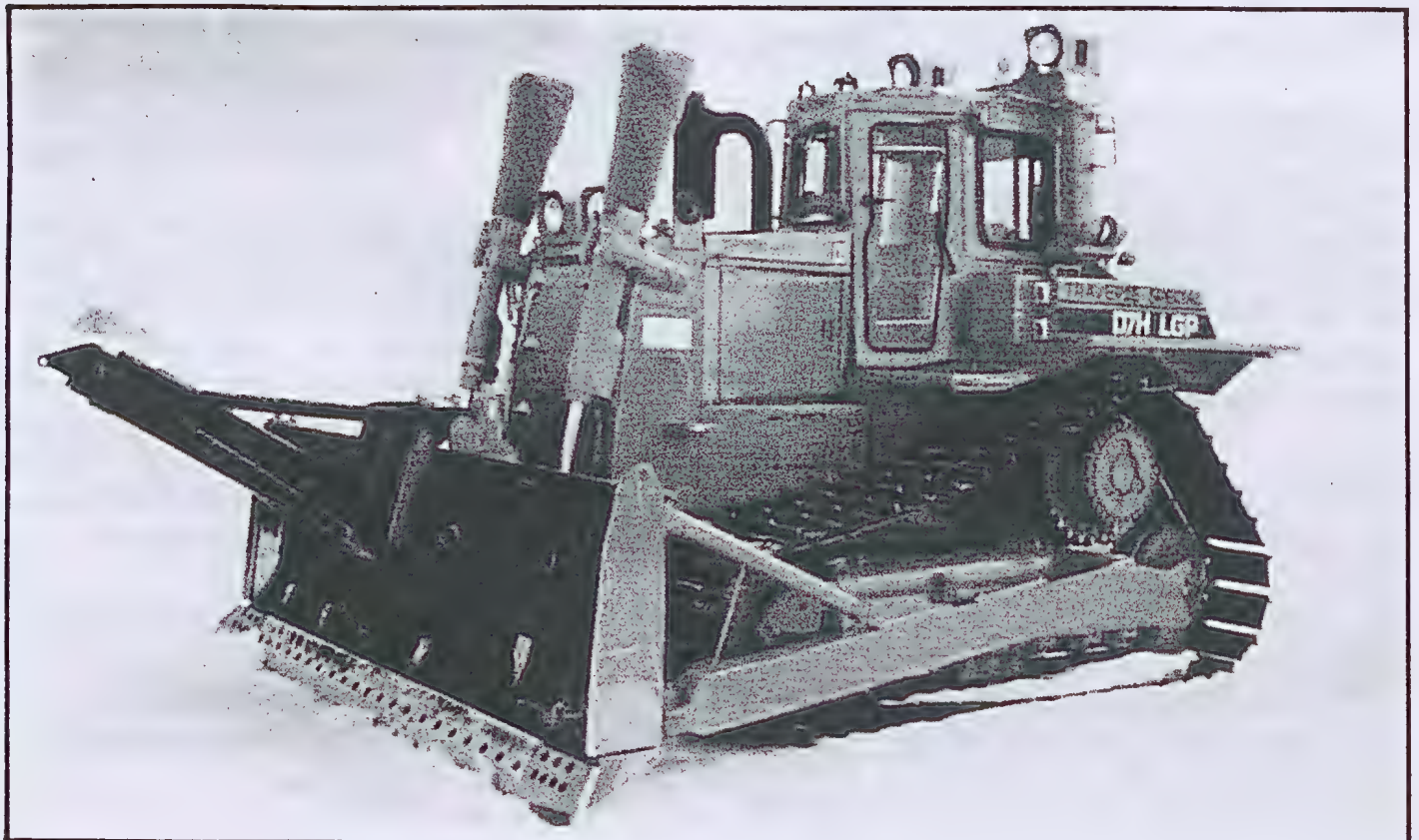
When Caterpillar introduced the Challenger rubber belted tractor it wasn't long before William Adams saw an application for the machine in providing high speed transportation in Antarctica.

During 1994 the company was awarded contracts by both French and Italian Antarctic Science and Research organisations for the supply of three Caterpillar Challenger 65C tractors for the Concordia Joint Venture. Known as TRAVERSE SPECIALS, the Challengers were developed by William Adams specifically for Antarctic service, after earlier successful trials of a Challenger tractor in Antarctica.

William Adams are recognised internationally for their expertise in the development and preparation of Caterpillar products for Antarctic service and since 1991 have supplied Challenger Traverse Special tractors to Australia (1), France (7) and Italy (2). Machine development and preparation is carried out at the Berriedale (Tasmania) workshop. A dedicated team prepare the machines to the high standards necessary for this rigorous climate, led by Technical Services Manager, Peter Fewkes. Other countries to since follow the Challenger trend include the USA and South Africa.

The combined French and Italian fleet of nine Challengers are playing a vital role in the establishment of a new Antarctic station known as Dome C located some 1000 kms from the Antarctic coast at an elevation of 3,250m. Temperatures range from -70°C in winter to -40°C in summer. The tractor trains are engaged in transporting some 1,600 tonnes of materials to establish and supply the new station.

To assist with the transportation of materials the partners also purchased three purpose built trailers mounted on Caterpillar Mobil-trac rubber belted undercarriages. Elphinstone Engineering of Triabunna manufactured the trailers to concept drawings provided by the client. Trailer construction was co-ordinated by William Adams who have recently also completed design and commissioning of new diesel electric generator sets for the French Polar Institute Power Station and Dumont D'urville.







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# POLAR CALENDAR

3	December	1999	TPN Meeting. 11 am. Antarctic Adventure. <b>Hobart, Tas.</b>
9	December	1999	Reception for crew of POLAR STAR, US icebreaker, at Antarctic Adventure. 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm. <b>Hobart, Tas.</b>
16	January	2000	Last day of Mawson's Antarctica - an exhibition of Sir Douglas Mawson's personal effects from his 1911-1914 Expedition. Antarctic Adventure. Daily 10.00 am - 5.00 pm. <b>Hobart, Tas.</b>
19	January	2000	160th Anniversary of Dumont D'Urville's discovery of Adelie Land.
31 6	January February	2000- 2000	ISCORD 2000. INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON COLD REGION DEVELOPMENT. <b>Hobart, Tas.</b> Details and Newsletter on the following website: <a href="http://www.antcrc.utas.edu.au/iscord">www.antcrc.utas.edu.au/iscord</a>
11	February	2000	Opening of the Maritime Museum in the Carnegie Building, Argyle St., <b>Hobart, Tas.</b>
17 1	February March	2000- 2000	Visit to Antarctic CRC sea ice group by Prof. Steve Warren, University of Washington.
3	March	2000	TPN Meeting. 11am. Antarctic Adventure. <b>Hobart, Tas.</b>
10-12	April	2000	13th Australian & NZ Climate Forum, hosted by CSIRO Marine Research, Bureau of Meteorology and Antarctic CRC. <b>Hobart, Tas.</b>
8-12	May	2000	2nd International Conference on Biology and Conservation of Albatrosses and Other Petrels. Hawaii. Contact E-mail: <a href="mailto:Beth_Flint@fws.gov">Beth_Flint@fws.gov</a>
28 2	May June	2000- 2000	TEMP 2000: Insect and Plant Cold Hardiness. University of Victoria, Canada. Contact E-mail: <a href="mailto:pcmguire@uvic.ca">pcmguire@uvic.ca</a>
19-23	June	2000	International Glaciological Society Symposium on Sea Ice and its Interactions with the Ocean, Atmosphere and Biosphere. Fairbanks, Alaska, USA. Contact Simon Ommannney, E-mail: <a href="mailto:100751.1667@compuserve.com">100751.1667@compuserve.com</a>
25-28	June	2000	International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators (IAATO) Meeting. <b>Hobart, Tas.</b>
10-22	July	2000	SCAR/COMNAP Meetings. Tokyo, Japan. Exhibition 10-13 July.

# BOOKS

'AHAB'S TRADE: The Saga of South Seas Whaling' by Allen Mawer. Published by Allen & Unwin. Price: \$39.95. This book explains the importance of whaling to Australia and the world and describes Hobart's significance and involvement in all aspects of the whaling industry in the early 19th century.

'THE WHITE' by Adrian Caesar. Published by Picador. Price: \$19.95. Subtitled 'Last Days of Scott and Mawson 1911-13', this book is not an official biography of either man but an account of the more dramatic aspects in the lives of Scott and Mawson.





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 Address: 28 Warwick Street Hobart Tasmania 7000



# THE BACK PAGE

## ANTARCTIC AND SOUTHERN OCEAN SHIPPING CALENDAR

11-12	December 1999	AKAD. SHOKALSKI V3.2	Macquarie Island
21	December 1999	CRYSTAL SYMPHONY	Arrives Hobart(H) from Melbourne (Melb), departs for NZ.
23-24	December 1999	LEGEND OF THE SEAS	Arrives H from Melb., departs for NZ.
28-29	December 1999	AURORA AUSTRALIS V4	Davis Base from Seal survey.
29	December 1999	L'ASTROLABE	Arrives Hobart from Antarctica.
29 1	December 1999- January 2000	AURORA AUSTRALIS V4	Sansom Island.
30	December 1999	L'ASTROLABE	Departs H for Dumont D'Urville.
2-3	January 2000	AURORA AUSTRALIS V4	Davis Base.
7-8	January 2000	AURORA AUSTRALIS V4	Mawson Base.
9	January 2000	KAPT. KHLEBNIKOV	Arrives Hobart from Auckland, NZ.
9-10	January 2000	AURORA AUSTRALIS V4	Marine Science.
10-11	January 2000	AURORA AUSTRALIS V4	Mawson Base.
16	January 2000	SKY PRINCESS	Arrives H from NZ, departs for Melb.
19-20	January 2000	LEGEND OF THE SEAS	Arrives H from NZ, departs for Melb.
23-26	January 2000	AURORA AUSTRALIS V4	Arrives Hobart, departs for Casey .
24	January 2000	SKY PRINCESS	Arrives H from Melb., departs for NZ.
24-25	January 2000	L'ASTROLABE	Arrives H and departs for Antarctica
27-28	January 2000	SILVER CLOUD	Arrives H from NZ, departs for D'port
1	February 2000	KAPT. KHLEBNIKOV	Arrives Hobart.
2-6	February 2000	AURORA AUSTRALIS V5	Casey Base.
7	February 2000	SILVER CLOUD	Arrives H from D'port, departs for NZ
11	February 2000	ASUKA	Arrives H from Sydney, departs for NZ
13	February 2000	SKY PRINCESS	Arrives H from NZ, departs for Melb.
12-13	February 2000	AURORA AUSTRALIS V5	Macquarie Island.
14	February 2000	QUEEN ELIZABETH 11	Arrives H from NZ, departs for Sydney
16-18	February 2000	AURORA AUSTRALIS V5	Arrives Hobart, departs for Mawson.
17-18	February 2000	L'ASTROLABE	Arrives H and departs for Antarctica.
18 13	February 2000- March 2000	TANGAROA V 5.1	Marine Science.



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